# Sixth Sunday of Easter May 14, 2023

## Gathering God invites us to enter His presence

**Prelude** 

**Welcome & Announcements** 

**Preparation for Worship** (Time for Silent Preparation)

### Call to Worship

Celia Weber

The eternal Father, who loved us and set us free from our sins, who loves us still with that love that will not let us go, and who will love us forever, calls us to worship him today as the only true lover of our souls. The Lord stoops to receive the love of our poor hearts. He calls us to remember the depth of his love for us in Christ. God seeks our love!

Invocation (Responsively)

Celia Weber

God of goodness and grace, we long for your presence, for the peace your promises bring, and for the assurances we have received through the gift of your Son.

May we, your people, this day and every day, have open eyes to see and open ears to hear your presence among us.

Open us to your Holy Spirit, Lord, and prepare us for worship.

Amen.

**Hymn** 92

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

## Confessing God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession (Responsively)

Celia Weber

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

#### **Time for Silent Confession**

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

Celia Weber

Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you, says the Lord.

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

## **♥** Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, Is now and ever shall be, world without end. A-men, A-men.

## Offering Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

#### Invitation

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Dear children, let us love, not in word or speech, but also in truth and action.

#### Offering

#### Offertory

Be Exalted, O God Dennis Lesher, Piano

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, among the people. I will sing praises to Thee among the nations For Thy steadfast love is great, is great to the heavens: And Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Thy glory be over all the earth. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Thy glory be over all the earth.

## Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

### Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our care. As we contribute to the needs of your people, we present ourselves as living sacrifices. Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.** 

Hymn 44

Children of the Heavenly Father

#### <u>Proclaiming</u> God speaks to us through His Word

Children's Sermon The Gift that Keeps on Giving Val Fieo

#### **Scripture Reading**

- <sup>28</sup> So now, little children, remain in him so that when he appears we may have confidence and not be ashamed before him at his coming. <sup>29</sup> If you know that he is righteous, you know this as well: Everyone who does what is right has been born of him.
- **3** See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children—and we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it didn't know him. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he appears, we will be like him because we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself just as he is pure.
- <sup>4</sup> Everyone who commits sin practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> You know that he was revealed so that he might take away sins, and there is no sin in him. <sup>6</sup> Everyone who remains in him does not sin; everyone who sins has not seen him or known him.
- <sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup> The one who commits sin is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the devil's works. <sup>9</sup> Everyone who has been born of God does not sin, because his seed remains in him; he is not able to sin, because he has been born of God. <sup>10</sup> This is how God's children and the devil's children become obvious. Whoever does not do what is right is not of God, especially the one who does not love his brother or sister.

"Live as Children of God" Rev. Tim Latham

### Praise Song

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away as wounds Which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, My sin upon His shoulders. Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice Call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished; His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything:
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

## Responding We respond to God's Word

## Profession of Faith (Philippians 2)

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of deatheven death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend. in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess

### to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord!

# <u>Commissioning</u> God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

Hymn 345 Blessed Assurance

Benediction & Blessing

This morning's Prayer Partner is Doreen Newby

Postlude